



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2008 POLICY FACT SHEET All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Gas Tax

### Summary

This change would increase the percentage of unrefunded gas tax attributable to the operation of ATVs as established in M.S. 296A.18 subd. 4, producing an increase in the total unrefunded gas tax dollars deposited in the All-Terrain Vehicle funding account (M.S. 84.927).

### It is needed because

With this appropriation the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will augment grant-in-aid trail development, state ATV trail maintenance and monitoring, and state forest road maintenance. The DNR is taking maintenance responsibilities for ATV trails that are being designated as part of the Forest Classification process; many of these trails need significant improvement to make them sustainable as trails. Minimum maintenance state forest roads provide essential links between ATV trails and trail loops but maintenance needs have increased dramatically on some state forest roads identified as part of an ATV trail system. The overall aim is to improve program operation and oversight while enhancing trail safety and reducing trail-related environmental impacts.

### Financial implications

This initiative will result in an estimated transfer of \$632,000 of unrefunded gas tax receipts to the ATV account. This initiative provides:

	\$000s	FY 2008	FY 2009
Natural Resource Fund (Transfer in)		\$532	\$532
Maintenance of minimum-maintenance forest roads and county forest roads within state forest boundaries		\$100	\$100
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$632</b>	<b>\$632</b>

### Background

Minn. Laws 2005, 1<sup>st</sup> Sp. Session, Chap.1, Art. 2, subd. 6, provided \$75,000 for a study to determine the amount of unrefunded gas tax used by all-terrain vehicle riders in the state, except for riders with vehicles registered for private use. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Departments of Transportation and Revenue, conducted the study, which was presented to the Minnesota Legislature in March 2006. No legislative action was taken on this matter in 2006. However, it did pass in the 2007 legislative session as part of the Tax Bill, but this bill was vetoed.

The previous ATV gas study, completed in 1984 when only 19,159 ATVs were registered in the state, was the basis for designating in statute that 0.15% of total gas tax revenue attributable to ATV operation. Almost twenty years later, in 2007, with more than 262,000 ATVs registered, the updated study concluded that ATV gas consumption, as a percent of the total gasoline consumption, is now 0.27%. Researchers estimate that the average ATV operator in Minnesota uses about 30 gallons of gasoline per year.

### Key measures and outcomes

- ◆ Improved maintenance of DNR maintained ATV trails, increase monitoring, safety and responsibility of riders and reduced environmental impacts on state forest land and other public lands;
- ◆ Improved maintenance of minimum-maintenance forest roads and county forest roads within state forest boundaries; and
- ◆ Increased funding for ATV trail maintenance, and for new trail development, as new trail projects are approved. Compliance with environmental review and protection regulations.

- ◆ Increased assistance and oversight of all new and existing ATV grant-in-aid projects.

**For further information contact:**

Forrest Boe, Director,  
 DNR, Division of Trails & Waterways  
 651-259-5615  
[forrest.boe@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:forrest.boe@dnr.state.mn.us)

Major Roger Tietz, Operations Support Manager  
 DNR, Division of Enforcement  
 1-800-366-8917 Ext-2516  
[roger.tietz@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:roger.tietz@dnr.state.mn.us)

*Source: MN DNR, Jan. 2008. Unpublished data. Bureau of Information, Education & Licensing, St. Paul, MN 55155. Total includes both Class 1 & Class 2 ATV registrations, but does not include ATV's registered for solely agricultural or private land use.*

**All-Terrain Vehicle Registrations, 1997-2007**

